

Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility,  
Three-Stall Garage  
100 feet south-southwest of Powerhouse Addition  
Cascade County  
Montana

HAER No. MT-95-G

HAER  
MONT  
7-GREFA  
2G-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

RAINBOW HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY,  
THREE-STALL GARAGE

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I. INTRODUCTION

**Location:** The Three-stall Garage is located at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility, which contributes to the significance of the Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District. The garage is 100 feet south-southwest of the southeast corner of the Rainbow Powerhouse addition. The Rainbow Facility is located on the Missouri River, two miles northeast of Great Falls, Montana.

**Quad:** Northeast Great Falls, Mont.

**UTM:** Zone 12: 485360 Easting; 5264705 Northing

**Date of Construction:** c. 1933

**Present Owner:** The Montana Power Company  
40 East Broadway  
Butte, Montana 59701

**Present Use:** Abandoned

**Significance:** The Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District is significant for its association with the industrial development of Montana and the consolidation of most of Montana's electric industry into The Montana Power Company. The district is also associated with John D. Ryan, the promoter of hydroelectric development at Great Falls. The buildings and structures are representative examples of design concepts of the period. The three-stall garage contributes to the significance of the district.

**Historian:** Mary McCormick and Lon Johnson  
Renewable Technologies, Inc.  
Butte, Montana 59701  
April 1995

## II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The wood-frame, three-stall garage is located just outside the 100 kV switchyard at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility (see figure 1). The date of construction is unknown, but it is identical to several other garages constructed at Rainbow in 1933.

The building measures 25' x 19' and has a concrete foundation. The shed-roof is covered with rolled roofing. The walls are sheathed with boards, covered with a compressed fiber insulating board, and rolled roofing (called "rubberoid" in one company publication). The rolled roofing has an aluminum colored finish.

The garage has three garage doors on the southeast side. The paired, outward-swinging doors are constructed of vertical tongue-and-groove boards. They are bordered with 1x4 boards and have 1x4 diagonal bracing. The doors are covered with the same rolled roofing as the walls.

## III. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Montana Power Company plans to demolish the three-stall garage at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility (FERC Project No. 2188). In accordance with the continuing management plans for historic Plant Operating Facilities, the Company is sponsoring Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation of the building.

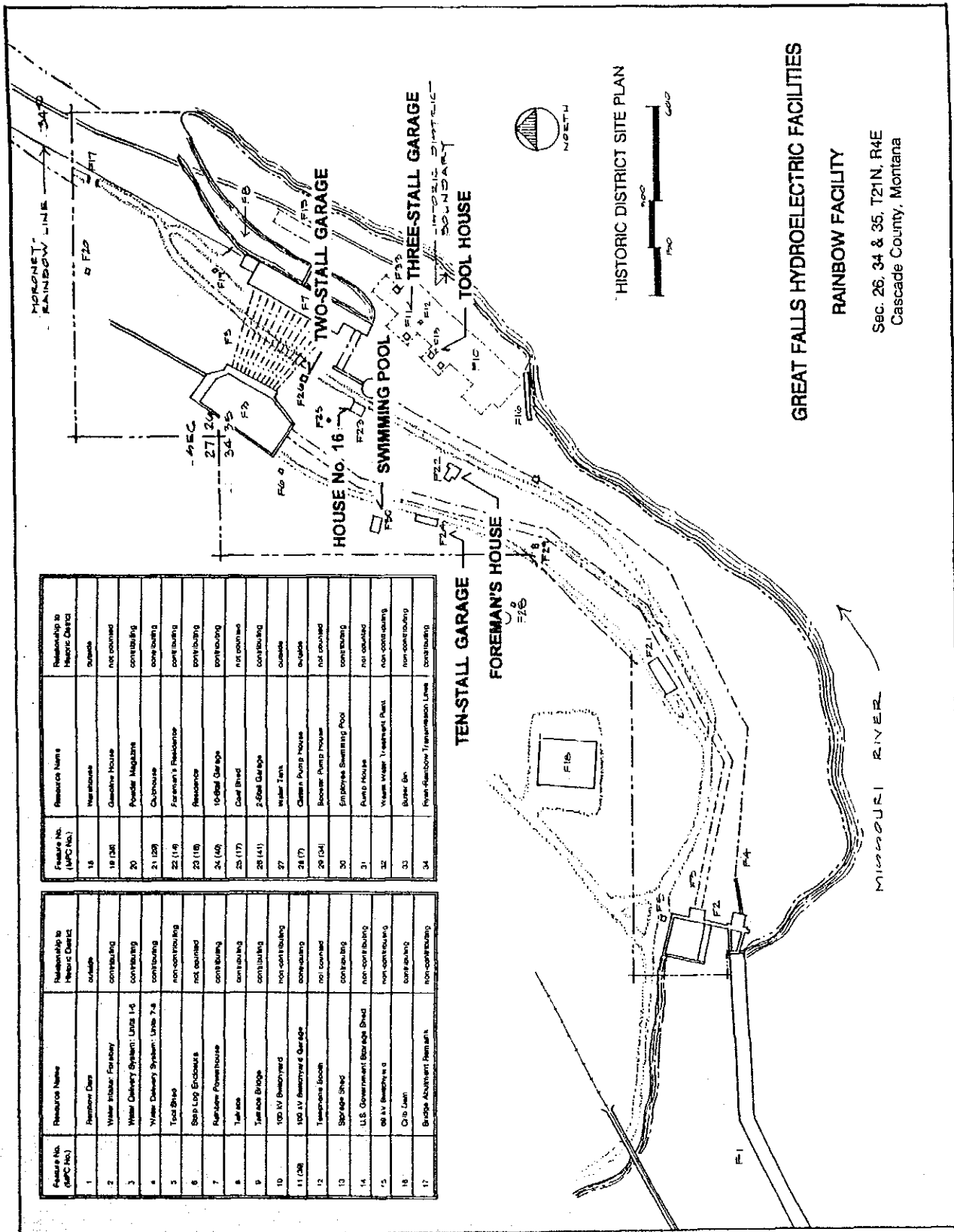


Figure 1. Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility Area Map.